

## THE CONFERENCE

Between General Miles and Cuban Military Authorities

WITH VIEW TO CO-OPERATION

OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES

WITH THOSE OF THE INSURGENTS—SOME VERY WELL LAID PLANS FOR THE JUNCTION OF THE TROOPS—LIEUTENANT ROWAN'S MISSION WILL NO DOUBT BE SUCCESSFUL—GARCIA AND GOMEZ WILL ACT WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 27.—Another conference has been held between General Miles, commanding the United States forces, and representatives of the Cuban civil and military authorities. The latter included Senor Quesada, charge d'affaires of the Cuban legation, Brigadier General Nunez and Lieutenant Atago of the Cuban army.

Lieutenant Arlago has seen seven months' service in the field and General Nunez has an intimate knowledge of all the ports of Cuba, having directed the movements of all filibustering parties. The conference brought about a full discussion of the plans of co-operation between the United States and Cuban forces. The details of this co-operation are guarded with the strictest secrecy.

The exploit of Lieutenant Rowan in landing near Santiago has been known for several days to both the United States and Cuban authorities as they co-operated in executing this move. The Cuban authorities here furnished guides and necessary papers to see Lieutenant Rowan through the Cuban lines. It is in execution of the plans outlined in these dispatches. Monday, for a landing at Santiago and Sagua, two points on the Cuban coast, one north and one south, respectively, with both General Gomez and General Garcia. Now that Lieutenant Rowan is on his way to effect a junction near Santiago, it is not improbable that another junction will be made by way of Sagua.

### THE FIRST PURPOSE.

The first purpose of these movements, it is understood, is to bring about a full equipment of insurgent forces, rather than to secure a joint movement between them and the United States troops. It is said that Garcia and Gomez together can muster 35,000 men, and that they will be able to make a strong forward movement on Havana as soon as they have arms, ammunition and medical supplies. The latter, and particularly quinine, is said to be greatly needed. The understanding among those best acquainted with the plans of co-operation is that the Cuban forces will advance on Havana and make a land siege in co-operation with the blockade now in progress by the United States war ships.

In this connection there is renewed talk of a recognition of the Cubans, at least their belligerency and possibly their independence, and confident hopes were expressed to-day in high Cuban circles that recognition would be granted within the next two weeks. One of the first effects of this, it is said, would be to give the Cubans an official status at Washington, instead of their present unofficial status.

### PRODUCTIVE OF IMPORTANT RESULTS.

The conference now held with General Miles and other officials are being productive of important results, and yet they are necessarily unofficial in character, owing to the unrecognized status of the Cubans. Now, however, that Gomez and Garcia are being recognized as material factors in the contest, and are being treated with by the war department, the desirability of their recognition, at least as belligerents, is being urged as warranting formal recognition. It is said the co-operation already established is in itself a recognition of de facto existence of the Cuban army and of belligerency, and that the de jure recognition should follow. While these hopes are renewed in Cuban circles, it cannot be learned that the administration has modified its attitude against recognition of any character.

In the event of Cuban recognition it is probable that President Palma of the Cuban junta would be the first minister accredited from Cuba, with Senor Quesada as charge d'affaires at Washington, and Senor Albertini as first secretary. President Palma spends most of his time in New York, leaving Senor Quesada in active charge here.

### PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Spain's Asiatic Possessions That Commodore Dewey May Seize—Their Exceeding Richness and Fertility.

Chicago Record: Spain has reason to fear that the loss of Cuba will be but one of the disasters to befall it in the present war with the United States. It is recognized in all quarters that the queen regent would have been willing to let the Cuban insurrectionists have their island without further protest had it not been for the fact that giving up probably would have incited an insurrection at home, resulting in the loss of the crown to her son before he should have a chance to wear it. It is quite as reasonable a probability that the Philippine islands, that splendid colony of Spain in the East Indies, would have been lost to Spanish control at the same time and that the island of Puerto Rico, the last remnant of Spain's great colonial possessions in the western hemisphere after Cuba is gone, would have gained freedom, too. Now, having spurned the only course in Cuban affairs the United States would permit; with American warships in Cuban waters and other American warships moving on Manila, Spain bids fair to lose the Philippines quite as surely as if it had taken the other horn of the dilemma.

Information concerning the Philippine islands is not very plentiful. They are far out of the lines of tourist travel, and few voyagers around the world reach them. Enough is known to prove that the colony is of great value to Spain; that its history has been a succession of revolt against Spanish rule and Spanish cruelty, and that it will be very easy for the American fleet now advancing on the colony to capture it promptly.

Manila, the capital city of the colony and of Luzon, the largest island, lies 828 miles, or thirty hours' easy steaming, southeast of Hong-kong, and twice that distance northeast of Singapore. The population of the city is about 320,000, of whom only 10,000—including troops, government officials and clergy—are Europeans, and not more than 500 are American-speaking people. A few American houses have branches in Manila, so that there is an American population of perhaps one hundred. The city faces a fine bay, into which flows the river Pasig. Most of the Europeans live in Binondo, a beautiful suburb on higher



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ground, across the river. There are many native dialects, but the social, official and business idiom is Spanish. The army of Spanish civil, religious, military and naval officials is a leech on the people in the same fashion as in Cuba. All the places of profit are monopolized by them, appointments to choice offices in the Philippines being given to those whom it is desired to reward for service to the government in Spain. It is quite well understood that such an appointee is expected to gain a fortune as rapidly as he can, by any method possible, so that he may give way for some one else to be brought over from Spain for a similar reward. The policy is the same, as the colonial policy of Spain in Cuba has been, and the same results have followed.

Manila has cable connection with the rest of the world and regular lines of passenger steamers. The European colony has its daily papers, which are, however, under strict censorship, religious and military, and keeps up with the news and the fashions of the day.

The Philippine islands were discovered in 1521 by Magellan, the circumnavigator, and were conquered by Spain and made a colony in the reign of Philip II, for whom they were named, half a century later. Spanish sway never has extended over more than half of the 1,400 islands of the archipelago, the others remaining under their native wild tribes and Mohammedan rulers. The conjectural area is about 120,000 square miles, and the estimated population about 7,500,000. About half this area and three-quarters of this population are nominally under Spanish rule, but the insurrection has left this in a good deal of doubt. The remainder of the people are governed according to their own customs, by independent native princes. Education is exceedingly backward. The Roman Catholic clergy have been industrious, and probably 2,500,000 natives are nominal converts to the Christian religion; but education has advanced very little among them. There is a Roman Catholic archbishop of Manila, besides three bishops.

Trade restrictions have hampered the commercial progress of the colony, but in spite of that fact their trade with the outside world is a large one. For many years after the conquest but one vessel a year was permitted to ply between Manila and the Spanish-American port of Acapulco. Then the number was increased to five. Then a Spanish chartered company was given a monopoly of the trade of the islands. When that monopoly expired other houses began business, and now many large English and German firms share the trade with the Spaniards, while American houses and American ships are by no means at the foot of the list. Even now, however, the manufacture of cigars is a government monopoly, and only half a dozen ports are open to foreign commerce. The total volume of the exports and imports is about \$75,000,000 annually.

The manufactures of the Philippines consist chiefly of textile fabrics of pineapple fiber, silk and cotton; hats, mats, baskets, rope, furniture, pottery and musical instruments. Vegetable products of great value are indigo, coconuts, sugar, rice, bamboo, hemp and tobacco. Coffee, pepper and cassia grow wild in sufficient quantity, and quality to provide a living for those who wish to take advantage of what nature has provided. Coal, gold, iron and copper are mined with profit. The soil is exceedingly fer-

tile, and although the climate is tropical, with little change except between wet and dry seasons, it has not been difficult for Europeans to accustom themselves to it. The largest island is nearly five hundred miles long and one hundred and twenty-five miles wide, while others are more than half as large.

The whole of Spanish authority in the East Indies centers at Manila, and the capture of that rich city by Commodore Dewey's Asiatic Squadron would be a hard blow for Spain. With Manila once captured by the United States, Spanish commerce in the east would be crippled, and it is doubtful if under any circumstances Spain could resume authority there after the war against the excellent advantage the insurrectionist leaders would have gained.

### G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT

OF THE Department of West Virginia. Richard Robertson, of Wheeling, President—Will Likely Be Elected Commander.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. HUNTINGTON, W. Va., April 27.—The session of the sixteenth annual encampment of the G. A. R. for the department of West Virginia opened here this morning. In the absence of Colonel T. A. Mauley, commander, Colonel Richard Robertson, of Wheeling, presided over the sessions to-day.

The report of Quartermaster General T. N. Swisher, was read, which showed the department to be in an excellent condition. Seventy-seven posts in the state are represented and a large number of visitors are present.

Colonel Robertson will surely be elected commander to-morrow, and Colonel C. R. Lovelley will be chosen senior vice commander. A sharp contest will likely be waged for the position of junior vice.

The Woman's Relief Corps has held its sessions with a large attendance to-day. It reports that its work is in a highly satisfactory condition. Mrs. C. R. Lovelley, of Central City, is said to be the choice for department president, and will probably be elected to-morrow. Among the past presidents are Mesdames Ellen F. Daniels, of Charleston, and Mary E. Leeds, of Parkersburg.

These meetings together with the ordering out of Companies I. and G., of the Second regiment here to-day, has made things look decidedly warlike.

### ARMY REORGANIZATION BILL.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The conferees of the two houses on the army reorganization bill agreed to the senate amendment requiring that the quotas of militia of the various states and territories shall be in companies, troops and batteries in order to be accepted by the President, and also that the senate amendment increasing the signal corps to the extent of ten corporals and 140 privates. The conference refused to accept the amendment authorizing the active employment of retired army officers in time of war, and it was eliminated from the bill.

### Francis Murphy's Big Contract.

PITTSBURGH, April 26.—Francis Murphy, the temperance apostle announced to-day that he would go to Cuba with the United States army and help the cause along by cheering the men and helping them to withstand the ravages of fever without the use of intoxicants.

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5:30—Afraid Tom's getting impatient, but I must see how the back of my hat looks!



5:40—Dear me. I'd almost forgotten my veil!



5:55—It would be tempting Providence to go out in this weather in these thin boots. Must change them!

6:05—Really, Tom, I'm astonished at you. Surely you don't expect me to run out into the street without gloves! Men are really too unreasonable for anything.—From Scraps.

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